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Netanyahu, Arafat agree to non-stop talks

HILLEL KUTTLER and news agencies
WASHINGTON

ISRAEL and the Palestinians yesterday agreed to hold round-the-clock negotiations, starting Sunday, on redeployment from Hebron and security matters.

US President Bill Clinton insisted at yesterday's conclusion of the two-day emergency summit that, while the crisis has not been resolved and the parties remain far apart, the talks had succeeded in reuniting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to the negotiating table.



President Bill Clinton, flanked by PA President Yasser Arafat and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, faces journalists following the White House press conference last night at which only Clinton spoke.

Arafat skipped a scheduled post-summit news conference and prepared to leave Washington without offering his own public assessment of the talks.

Netanyahu was not at all reticent, holding a news conference to hail the outcome.

"There is a greater degree of mutual understanding than there was two days ago and this will increase in time, I hope," he said.

Meanwhile, Egypt said yesterday that progress towards Middle East peace needed action, not just more promises from Netanyahu.

A senior Egyptian official, commenting on the summit's outcome, said the meeting did not seem to have bridged the gap between Israelis and the Palestinians.

"The differences remain the same and the whole exercise ended in more promises, more pledges. But promises and pledges by Netanyahu are not enough, what we need is deeds," said the official, who asked not to be named.

"If there are no moves, it will be a catastrophe," he added. "Throwing stones [by Palestinians] will look mild in comparison to what might happen."

The Egyptian official said Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak had no need to justify his decision to stay away from the summit, which Egypt thought needed greater preparation.

Mubarak has also said he decided not to go when he realized that Netanyahu did not intend to make any gestures, even on the opening of a new entrance in a tunnel in Jerusalem which led to last week's violence between Israeli troops and Palestinians.

"Such a summit should have had an agenda, some advance footwork by foreign ministers, details of points of disagreement and proposals for solving them. That is how summit are done," said the official. "But I do share President Clinton's view that something had to be done. He did his maximum ... He took a risk and we appreciate that," he added.

Government claims victory, Palestinians dismayed, Page 2

Clinton announced he was dispatching special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross to manage the talks that are to take place at the Erez checkpoint.

"When we compare where we are today to where we were a week ago, are we in better shape? Yes. Are we where I'd like to be? No," Clinton said at a press conference after the summit.

Clinton stated that Israel and the PA reaffirmed their commitment to refrain from resorting to violence. That demand was essential to Israel's agenda here, in light of last week's firing by Palestinian policemen on IDF troops.

Clinton, determined to head off further violence, appealed to the residents of the region to allow the sides to carry out their determination to complete the negotiations.

"I ask the people of the Middle East, the Palestinians and others, to give us a few more days to let things unfold, give us a few more days to see that when these negotiations start, where they proceed in good faith, whether progress can be made. I guess the message I want to send across the Middle East is: I'm convinced that this process and

Netanyahu later told reporters at his hotel.

He said the meetings helped "cement the principle that the path to peace is through negotiations, not through violence."

He also said that two panels would tackle redeployment and security matters in the push toward an agreement, and said he and Foreign Minister David Levy, and Arafat and Mahmoud Abbas were prepared to shepherd it through.

One senior Israeli official said the talks had succeeded in generating a level of cooperation between the two leaders that was absent following their initial meeting last month.

"I don't want to say that there won't be problems, but there's a basis for trust and progress between the parties that wasn't there after the Erez meeting," he said.

A grave looking Clinton, standing before an equally solemn Netanyahu, Arafat and King Hussein, told the press conference that Netanyahu and Arafat "understand the choice they face" as being between "cooperation and conflict, between progress and aggression, between hope and fear."

He answered questions from reporters, but said that at the initiative of the parties, he would speak on their behalf. By group agreement, Netanyahu, Arafat and King Hussein took a vow of silence for the final ceremony, naming Clinton their spokesmen and refusing reporters' appeals for comment.

Clinton finally turned and invited his guests to speak if they wished, laughing and saying he had performed "a miracle" of silence when they smilingly declined.

Clinton lauded the leaders' commitment to restore the peace process following last week's violence, and called this week's primary achievement their reaching "a higher level of understanding and a

higher level of trust that existed before these talks began.

"They were not able to resolve their differences here, but to be fair, when we came together there were no advance guarantees that there would be large-scale substantive negotiations. We knew we would only have about a day-and-a-half to work here, and they got the most

out of it," Clinton said.

"The agreement that was made here to immediately restart these negotiations, and to do them on a full-time basis until agreement is reached on the critical issues, including Hebron, is encouraging to me, and I think it comes out of ... a sense of urgency given what has happened in the region."

2 soldiers wounded in south Lebanon

DAVID RUDGE

TWO IDF soldiers were wounded, one seriously and the other moderately, in an attack on their outpost in the security zone yesterday.

They were both evacuated by helicopter to Haifa's Rambam Hospital. One soldier was reported to be suffering from serious head injuries, and the second from limb wounds caused by shrapnel.

Gunmen believed to be from Hizbullah opened fire with mortars and Sagger anti-tank missiles at the Razlan position, in the northeastern sector of the security zone.

At least one round appears to have directly hit the compound, wounding the soldiers, both members of an infantry unit.

One of the missiles also hit a tank near the perimeter of the position, causing some minor damage but no casualties. IDF gunners returned fire.

Reports from Lebanon said IAF helicopter gunships also fired a number of missiles at Hizbullah targets north of the zone.

According to Beirut radio reports, gunmen fired SAM-7 shoulder-held missiles at the helicopters, but missed.

There were no immediate reports of Hizbullah casualties. The Razlan position, which is manned by SLA troops with IDF support, also came under mortar and anti-tank missile fire earlier in the morning. There were no casualties, and IDF gunners returned fire.

Both Hizbullah and Amal have intensified their activities against the IDF and the SLA in the security zone since the end of the Lebanese elections.

There are now reports that rejectionist Palestinian organizations will also try to carry out attacks in reaction to the recent fighting in the territories.

Netanyahu: Principle, not pretext

ANALYSIS
DAVID MAKOVSKY

FOR Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, refusal to make immediate concessions, despite US and Palestinian insistence, was a matter of principle, not expediency.

The principle in question for Netanyahu is "no political concessions as a result of violence."

He also refused to either set a target date for Hebron redeployment or yield on other matters, such as naming a date for the start of talks on the final disposition of the territories.

Moreover, he made clear his view that a binding deadline on Hebron guarantees that Israeli security concerns will not be taken seriously, but that the Palestinians will play out the clock.

Therefore, everyone is going to be looking at the second act of this drama beginning next week at Erez junction, when talks on Hebron begin.

While saying that Israel cannot yield under pressure, he did tell the Palestinians and Americans that there were carrots, not just sticks. Israel could make concessions after there is a "stabilization period" in the aftermath of the violence.

For example, Israel could move forward on Hebron and end the so-called "inner closure," which does not let Palestinians move from city to city in the territories.

Moreover, the first wide-ranging three-and-a-half-hour personal discussion between Netanyahu and Arafat seemed to leave hope that "there is now a basis for dialogue," a senior official in Netanyahu's party said.

Their talks included Netanyahu relating anecdotes about when he was a soldier and fought Arafat's forces in Karameh in 1970.)

However, Netanyahu refused to offer an immediate gesture. While US exasperation may have reached its height during a meeting early yesterday between Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Netanyahu aides, President Bill Clinton seemed willing to give the negotiations more time.

His own words and body language showed that he also wanted more, but he appeared to accept Netanyahu's sincerity and his appeal to give the talks a chance.

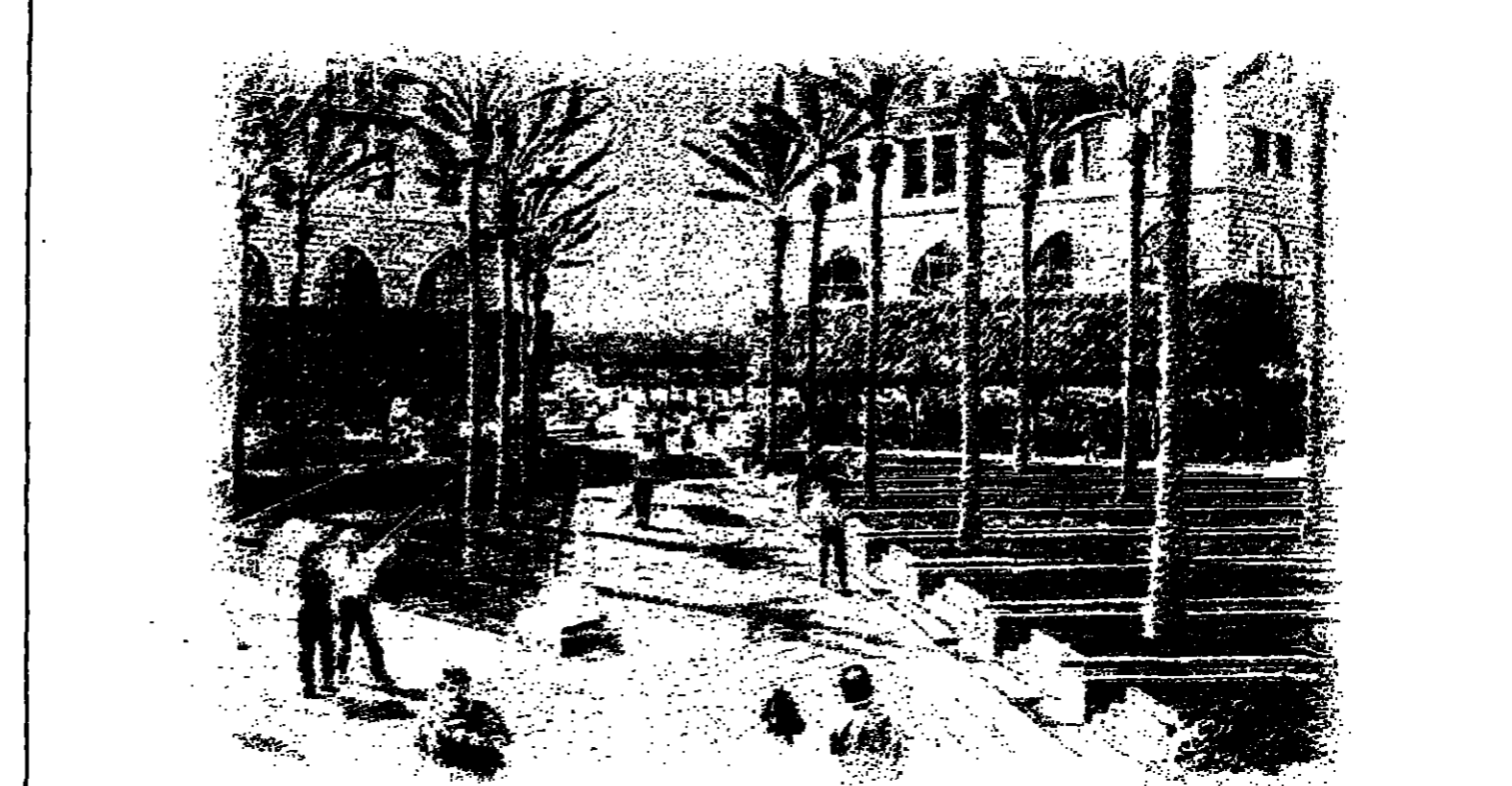
Yasser Arafat's only comfort may be that US envoy Dennis Ross will be involved in the Erez talks, signalling US interests. Some say Clinton's refusal to press Netanyahu hard may be due to the upcoming US elections. Others point to the limited maneuvering room Netanyahu has inside his own cabinet.

Netanyahu also sought to change American and Palestinian mind sets. Israel entered the talks with many believing that it must pay for its political blunder in opening the Hasmonean Tunnel by making a concession to the Palestinians. However, by bringing senior military personnel to the talks, Netanyahu sought to explain that the violence had caused an utter collapse in the military's confidence in security coordination with its Palestinian counterparts.

Netanyahu believes that deeds on the ground, not words in Washington demonstrated that he was indeed motivated by principle and not by expediency.

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AROUND THE WORLD

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Druse soldier buried

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Israel claims summit victory

THE government claimed victory after the White House summit yesterday, saying it had conceded nothing, while Palestinian officials branded the meeting a failure.

"The results of the summit are a great success from the point of view of the government of Israel. All the demands... we presented in the contacts, and in the negotiations we've held night and day since coming here, were accepted," cabinet secretary Danny Naveh told Israel Radio from Washington.

On the other hand, Hasan Asfour, a senior Palestinian negotiator, blamed "Israeli intransigence" for the "failure" and warned of trouble. "What happened in Washington was an

News agencies

American attempt to absorb the anger and reaction of Palestinians and to give the appearance of success," Asfour told Reuters.

"But the summit has failed because of Israeli intransigence which requires high political alertness from the Palestinian and Arab side."

Tourism Minister Moshe Katzav said the summit was an appropriate end to last week's violence and that he was pleased that decisions had not been made on substantial issues, but instead these topics would be discussed in negotiations beginning on Sunday.

Noting that "an exchange of words is always preferable to an exchange of bullets," a Labor Party statement released last night said Netanyahu's lack of understanding and political savvy had exerted a high price - the lives of 15 soldiers and the wounding of dozens others.

The National Religious Party congratulated Netanyahu for his strong stance at the summit and the results it achieved.

Moldelet MK Benny Elon also praised Netanyahu. "Since the state's founding, we have succeeded on every military front and failed on every political front," he said. "Binyamin Netanyahu may be the first prime minister to also succeed on the political front."

1 Palestinian killed, 5 wounded in clashes with IDF

News agencies

A PALESTINIAN was killed and five others wounded during clashes with troops in the Hebron Hills yesterday.

The clashes took place in the area of Sa'ir, where demonstrators gathered despite the curfew imposed on the region. One man was killed and four wounded in these clashes.

Earlier in the day, soldiers shot and wounded a young man as he was preparing a Molotov cocktail to throw at a passing car. The troops chased dozens of stone-throwers through the alleys of the Hebron market, but did not fire tear gas or rubber bullets.

Several shots were reportedly fired at an Israeli at the Zehutit junction in Hebron last evening.

Traffic came to a halt in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for five minutes in a show of support for the Palestinian Authority and a protest against the closure.

Witnesses across the West Bank and Gaza Strip said Palestinian motorists stopped their vehicles in the streets at noon for five minutes. Pedestrians also halted in silence.

Other parts of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip remained calm, Palestinians said.



Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert walks down a Jerusalem street yesterday accompanied by a bodyguard after police received reports that terror groups were targeting him. (Brian Bender)

Olmert assigned bodyguard

BILL HUTMAN

POLICE assigned a bodyguard to Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, after receiving intelligence information on plans by Palestinian terror groups to target him because of his role in opening an exit to the Hasmonaean Tunnel.

A border policeman also has been placed outside Olmert's home in the Old Katamon neighborhood for the past several days, out of concern the mayor might be attacked, according to police sources.

Palestinians have apparently singled out Olmert because of his high profile role in the exit's opening. Photographs of Olmert help-

ing workers open the new exit during the secret, nighttime operation last week were featured prominently in the Palestinian press.

Security sources said they were unsure how long Olmert would receive the special protection and noted that this is the first time he has received a police bodyguard.

Mordechai asked to station doctors at PA border crossings

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Israel Medical Association yesterday suggested that doctors be stationed at border points with the autonomous regions to determine whether there is medical justification for patients to be admitted into Israel for medical treatment.

IMA chairman Dr. Yoram Blachar, in a letter to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, was commenting on recent allegations in the press that some Palestinians have been denied entry for major treatment in Israeli hospitals because of the closure.

"We, as doctors, fear that these incidents - if they are true - will cause the patients' condition to decline and even cause unnecessary deaths."

Blachar added that he is aware of the "sensitive situation" at border crossings in which some Palestinians take advantage of the IDF policy of consideration toward those who need urgent care and smuggle in those who are not sick. Nevertheless, he said, ways must be found to ensure that those who need urgent treatment unavailable in the territories can reach Israeli hospitals.

If a medical expert were on duty at the crossing points, these incidents could be eliminated, the IMA says.

The IMA is often forced to defend Israeli policies regarding Palestinian patients in international forums. The cases raised are used as anti-Israeli propaganda, Blachar said.

"To eliminate all doubts regarding Israel's humanitarian approach to Palestinians needing treatment, we ask you to use your influence to set clear criteria regarding their passage into Israel, so that justice will not just be done, but also seen to be done," he concluded.

Sharansky went to Washington, but economics never came up

HILLEL KÜTTLER WASHINGTON

ISRAELI-Palestinian negotiations at the White House summit rose and fell exclusively on the fulcrum of the pressing security-strategic measures.

It was not supposed to have been so. Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky explained yesterday that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu brought him along for talks with his Palestinian counterparts on economic matters, with a focus on expediting border hugging industrial parks that are seen as spurring labor-intensive projects for the Palestinians.

"Bibi said if [talks here] will go successfully, it will bring in a dimension of economic coopera-

tions here, but he said his nine years in Soviet prisons taught him that you "must stay cool" and not get "too excited by progress or crisis."

"The experience I had in the past helps me to... keep strategic aims in mind and, at the same time, to try to keep in mind the interests, the legitimate interests of other side."

Sharansky was adamant that Israel will not decouple improving security arrangements in Hebron from redeployment there.

He said, however, that you never can forget that "the other side also has, in addition to gains it tries to gain by unacceptable means, legitimate interests."

Sharansky conceded he is a newcomer to the high-stakes discussions here, but he said his nine years in Soviet prisons taught him that you "must stay cool" and not get "too excited by progress or crisis."

Sharansky said he has had discussions with members of the American team, and a document circulated among the delegations Tuesday night "mentioned" the economic dimension of Israeli and Palestinian cooperation.

But Sharansky had no discussions on those matters with the Palestinians, because "the first stumbling block has not been overcome" on the Hebron-security linkage.

Sharansky conceded he is a newcomer to the high-stakes discussions here, but he said his nine years in Soviet prisons taught him that you "must stay cool" and not get "too excited by progress or crisis."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Policeman injured in hit-and-run accident

A Tel Aviv policeman was moderately injured early yesterday morning in a hit-and-run accident on Tel Aviv's Derech Petah Tikva.

After a truck hit his police car, the policeman was taken to Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital, where he was treated for neck and head injuries.

Witnesses to the accident are asked to contact the Tel Aviv traffic office.

Pedestrian killed in Haifa traffic accident

A woman crossing a Haifa intersection was hit and killed by a commercial vehicle making a right turn onto Trumpeldor Street.

Ten people were lightly injured in a chain accident involving four vehicles yesterday morning near Ben-Sbeman interchange, two kilometers from Lod. Ambulances and emergency crews dispatched to the scene brought the injured to Assaf Harofeh Hospital in Tzrifin.

Security tightened at Bonn embassy

German police have increased protection around the Israeli Embassy in Bonn due to threats, police sources said yesterday. An embassy spokesman confirmed there were threats but said he was unaware of their nature. Bonn police are investigating, he said.

Bonn police said special security measures had been implemented around the embassy because of the "political situation."

EU to give PA \$25.6m. in emergency aid

The European Union Council of Ministers pledged to give the Palestinian Authority \$25.6 million over the next six to eight weeks to alleviate the PA's budgetary problems, the EU announced in a statement released last night. This will bring EU contributions to the PA this year to a total of \$86.1m.

The European Commission Office for Humanitarian Aid has produced a \$1.6m. package for PA hospitals and clinics to use to purchase medical supplies.

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הללנו את אלוהים

Mordechai: IDF deployment calmed the situation

HERB KEINON

DEFENSE Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, on a visit to Gush Katif yesterday, said that the relative calm in the territories is due to the massive firepower the IDF has moved into position. He also warned that the IDF will use the means at its disposal if attacked again.

"One of the central lessons [from the violence last week] is our understanding early on for the need for force and the wherewithal for combat," Mordechai said. "I said from the first day that force and wherewithal for combat will prevent bloodshed, and that is exactly what has happened. The preparation, the directives, the activity have a deterrent and calming influence, and essentially has brought the situation to where it is now."

Mordechai also reiterated claims that the Palestinian Authority was behind last week's rioting and had given the orders to open fire on

IDF soldiers.

Mordechai's visit was followed by one by Agriculture and Environment Minister Rafael Eitan, who said that Israel should put the peace process on hold for a year, and then go straight to talks on a final status agreement with the Palestinians.

Mordechai visited the region after first going to the site near Rafiah where Col. Nabih Mari was killed on Friday. Mordechai then went to Gush Katif; Neveh Dekalim, where he met with settlement leaders; and Kfar Darom, where he met with residents.

Gaza Coast Regional Council head Aryeh Tsur said that the meeting was general, and that the area's representatives will soon meet with the Defense Ministry's director-general to work out

details. Tsur said that Mordechai, who had served as OC Southern District Commander, pledged support for the settlements and discussed the need to strengthen them.

Among the settlers' requests were additional defensive measures, including more bullet-proof buses for the region, and a request to move the armed Palestinian forces away from Netzarim Junction, where two soldiers were killed last Thursday. Tsur said there was also a request for bullet-proof ambulances for the region.

"Our ambulances evacuated wounded soldiers last week to Kissufim Junction, where they were taken by ambulance to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba," he said. "Two of these three ambulances came under sniper fire. We asked for help in making these ambulances bulletproof."

American Jews back Clinton's effort

President remains assured of their vote

MARILYN HENRY NEW YORK

ALTHOUGH the American Jewish community remained uneasy yesterday about the outcome of the Israeli-Palestinian summit in Washington, there appeared to be broad support for President Bill Clinton's efforts to defuse the crisis.

There has been rampant speculation in the American media that Clinton's convening of the summit was a gamble that could backfire so soon before the presidential election. However, that did not appear to be an issue for American Jews on the second day of meetings between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority head Yasser Arafat.

American Jewish organizations are constrained by law from openly engaging in partisan politics. But one Jewish leader said, "Do [people] think Clinton's going to lose the Jewish vote? Nonsense. It is not going to happen."

"Regardless of [the summit's] outcome, we deeply appreciate your leadership - and that of your administration - on peace process

issues," Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Reform movement's Union of American Hebrew Congregations, wrote yesterday in a letter to Clinton.

Yoffie's view was confirmed in random interviews with American Jews, who said Clinton deserved credit for bringing the two sides to the table, but should not be blamed if they do not agree. "If Clinton can't get them to agree, why should he be held responsible for solving 1,000 years of conflict?" said Nilene Chase, an attorney from New Jersey.

The summit could have been politically risky if Clinton were viewed as pressuring the Israelis. "It bodes well that [Clinton] has left the two parties alone," said Betty Ehrenberg, director of the Institute of Public Affairs of the Orthodox Union. But she added, "We cannot judge the wisdom of the [Clinton] move until we see what happens down the road."

But, said Milton Shapiro, president of the Jewish National Fund: "I am always afraid that in an international meeting of this kind there is pressure to compromise on basic principles. Clinton has to show that he is not putting pressure on Israel to compromise on basic fundamental principles."

Meanwhile, the Jewish community resorted to its usual method of broadcasting its opinions - with advertisements in newspapers. The Anti-Defamation League assailed the Palestinians for violating the Oslo accords with last week's violence. The Israel Policy Forum, on the other hand, said that 81 percent of American Jews "support the peace process that is now threatened by renewed violence," without pointing fingers.

American rabbis in a group called Pikuach Nefesh issued a statement calling on Netanyahu to completely abrogate the Oslo Accords. "Now that we all see what a terrible agreement this is, it's time to announce that it was a mistake," the group said.

Arab leaders, Jewish peace activists meet today

DAVID RUDGE

ISRAELI Arab leaders and Jewish peace activists are to meet in Shfaram in the Galilee today to discuss a joint action campaign to press the government to promote the peace process.

The meeting is to decide whether to stage a mass demonstration in Jerusalem on Friday - depending on the outcome of the talks between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and PA Chairman Yasser Arafat in Washington.

"We are all hoping that there will be a breakthrough in Washington but there is a great deal of skepticism over such a possibility," said Hussein Suleiman, spokesman for the forum of Arab Council Heads.

Suleiman said representatives of Peace Now, "Dor Shalom Doreish Shalem" (A whole generation demands peace), Metzetz and the Labor Party were scheduled to

attend the meeting, as well as Arab MKs and council heads.

"The atmosphere in the Israeli Arab sector is one of bitterness and frustration over the government's policies," he said.

Israeli Arab leaders called a general strike of the entire non-Jewish community last Friday. The strike was widely supported, but was marred by several stonethrowing incidents, particularly in Nazareth, on the Nahal Iron highway, and in Kfar Kana.

There were also reports that during a protest march in Umm el-Fahm, some of the demonstrators chanted "Death to the Jews." Israeli Arab leaders, who had called on the public to show restraint, denounced those responsible for the disturbances.

The remainder of the protest marches, held in Arab towns and

villages throughout the country during the one-day general strike, passed peacefully.

The decision to coordinate future activities with the Jewish peace camp appears to be aimed at demonstrating a united front and defusing any potential Jewish-Arab acrimony.

Suleiman said the Israeli Arab leaders would consider calling on Moslems to hold a mass prayer meeting at the "Al-Aksa" mosque in Jerusalem on Friday, preceded by a joint demonstration in the capital with Jewish peace activists.

"The decision at the meeting on the scope and type of steps we will take on Friday will depend on the outcome of the Washington summit," Suleiman said.

"If nothing positive results from this meeting it won't be good for anybody - Jews or Arabs," he added.

Moskowitz behind disputed purchase of Arab home in capital

BILL HUTMAN

AMERICAN right-wing activist Irving Moskowitz was behind the purchase of an Arab home in eastern Jerusalem, which police last month ordered evacuated until the court decides who owns the building, according to documents uncovered by Palestinian lawyer Mohammed Dahleh.

Moskowitz is named as purchasing just over 50 percent of the building from a Mujir Aldin Elalemeh on May 12, 1993, in the Jerusalem Land Registry.

On the same day, the property was listed as having been sold by Moskowitz to Don Holdings Ltd., a company registered in the British Virgin Islands.

The registry gives no names of anyone connected with the company.

Dahleh, who represents a Palestinian family that claims ownership to half the building, charged that Moskowitz himself is behind Don Holdings Ltd., and the transfer done simple to make it more difficult to legally fight the claim to the building.

Jerusalem Magistrate's Court is scheduled to open hearings on the future of the home, situated across from the US Consulate in eastern Jerusalem, on Sunday. Dahleh gathered the documents in preparation for the hearing.

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Yigal, Haggai Amir, Dror Adani to be sentenced today

TEL AVIV District Court Judges Annon Strashnov, Ze'ev Hamer, and Shelly Timen are this morning expected to sentence assassin Yigal Amir, his brother Haggai, and Dror Adani, who were convicted on charges of plotting to murder prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, conspiracy to harm Palestinians and their property, and illegal possession of firearms and explosives.

Strashnov has already indicated that he wishes to end the trial quickly, and thus it is likely that sentencing will also be passed down today.

Police are investigating an incident at a Karmiel school in which a slogan praising Yigal Amir was found scrawled on the floor of the schoolyard. The spokesman for the Galilee police district said a complaint had been received about the matter from staff at the elementary and junior high school.

Four said that Mordechai... served as OC South... including more built... request for bulletproof... were killed... request for bulletproof... ambulances evacuated... last week... taken by ambulance... hospital in Beer Sheva... of these three... under sniper fire... help in making the... bulletproof.

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the country... general strike... to coordinate... with the Jewish... aimed at... front and... potential Jewish... the Israeli Arab... calling on... a mass prayer... mosque... Friday, preceded... in the... Jewish peace

US national, accused of murder, takes witness stand in Haifa

ARVIN Johnson took the witness stand yesterday in Haifa District Court. He is accused of murdering his former girlfriend, Ganit Tsiman.

He then went to his room and tried to commit suicide by stabbing himself, Johnson told the court. When he realized he would not succeed that way, he drank the poison.

Prosecutor Nurit Gruber's summation, however, had a very different version of the events since last November. Tsiman had tried to break off not only the romantic relationship but all contact with the defendant, who kept phoning her. He stole the knife not to kill himself, but to kill Tsiman, Gruber said.

Johnson, 26, was born to an African-American family and grew up in New York, but he left home at 13. The Jewish family that took him in introduced him to Zionism, Israel and American-Jewish life, he said. His introduction to Israeli culture came in 1988, when he was class president at a technical high school in Brooklyn and helped lead tours for Israeli exchange students.

On the night of February 29, he was depressed and asked Tsiman to come to his apartment. When she arrived, he said they talked for a while and then he told her of his plan to commit suicide.

On the night of the alleged murder, the defendant begged his victim to see him one last time, the prosecutor continued. He succeeded in persuading her, but the victim tried to leave just a few minutes after she arrived. At that point, the defendant attacked her from behind, stabbing her repeatedly in the back and neck, Gruber said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Three workers hurt in accidents
An explosion occurred in a Ma'alot chemical factory early yesterday, causing serious burns to one worker, who was brought to Haifa's Rambam Hospital for treatment. Another worker suffered light injuries.

Succot event set today in Arazim Valley
Under the slogan "Let Jerusalem Breathe," the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel and the Arazim Residents Action Committee have arranged a Succot event of tours and entertainment in the Arazim Valley at the western entrance to the capital today.

Levi named Israel Festival music consultant
Conductor Joel Levi has been named as music consultant for the 1997 and 1998 Israel festivals. The 1998 festival will be a part of the country's 50th anniversary celebrations. Levi, who is music director of the Atlanta Symphony, was born in Romania, educated in Israel and served for six years as assistant to Lorin Maazel at the Cleveland Symphony.

Five stolen taxis were taken to West Bank last month
THIEVES attacked a cabbie on Tuesday night, lightly injuring him, and stole his taxi. This was the sixth taxi stolen in the center of the country over the past month. The thieves fled into the territories.

Drug crimes on rise among youth
THE number of police files opened against youths suspected of various drug-related crimes increased 39 percent in the first half of the year, according to figures presented to the Union of Local Authorities yesterday.



Children play with snakes and help feed pelicans at the Jerusalem Biblical Zoo at an event sponsored by 'Pashosh,' the children's magazine of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel.

Arab security service worker petitions court against Tira school's refusal to enroll his children

AN Arab who works for Israel's security services petitioned the High Court of Justice yesterday against the village of Tira's refusal to allow his children to enroll in the local schools.

According to his petition, Jallal Amar has been working for the security services since 1979. Originally a resident of Kalkilya, he recently moved to Tira - at the security services' suggestion - due to repeated attacks and threats on his life in his native town. He bought a house in Tira and then tried to register his three children for school. Two were supposed to start first grade this year, and the third should have started kindergarten.

However, the school refused to take the children, saying their registration had not been approved, and told Amar to consult with the mayor. The mayor said approval had to be given by the official in charge of Islamic education in the town, while this latter insisted that it was the mayor who had sole authority over the issue. After being bounced back and forth between the two, as well as other officials, several times without result, Amar said he was finally told by the mayor, Tayar Abdel Hai, that his children would never be allowed to learn in Tira.

Appeals court reinstates Israeli's lawsuit against NYC

NEW YORK (AP) - A state appeals court reinstated a \$12.5 million suit filed against the Transit Authority by an Israeli who was beaten, kicked, stabbed, and robbed on a subway train and left partly blind and deaf.

'Arab Dream,' 'Harvest Nights' win top honors at Acre theater festival

ARAB *Dream* and *Harvest Nights* by, respectively, the Acre Theater Center/Diwan and the Beit Hagefen Theater were jointly named Best Production at the 1996 Acre Festival of Alternative Theater.

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All 70 on board presumed dead after Peru jet crash

ALL 70 passengers and crew were feared dead after a Peruvian Aeroperu airliner crashed into the Pacific north of Lima en route to Chile early yesterday.

The Peruvian government and Aeroperu officials both blamed a technical failure on the Boeing 737-200 for the accident, which claimed victims from 11 countries.

"We have listened to the recordings of the pilot," Transportation Minister Elsa Carrera de Escalante said in a radio interview. "It seems there was a blockage in the computer system."

She quoted from a transcript of a message by the pilot, Eric Schreiber, to Lima air traffic control. "I am reducing engine power, but the plane is still accelerating," were Schreiber's final words, according to Carrera.

The Peruvian navy said one of its search planes discovered the wreckage of the airliner soon after 9 a.m. local time. Admiral Cesar Chavez told reporters a white fuselage, split in

two, was spotted floating on the sea about 60 km west of the coast-line.

"We have not found any survivors," he said. Other rescue workers said 10 bodies were seen floating in the ocean during a flyover.

At a news conference, Aeroperu officials listed 30 victims from Chile, 20 from Peru, including the nine-man crew, six from Mexico, four from the United States, two from Italy, two from Great Britain, two from Ecuador, and one each from New Zealand, Spain, Colombia and Venezuela.

Of the passengers, 21 had boarded the fatal flight after connecting from Miami, according to Aeroperu Miami operations manager Raul Chiappo.

Earlier, hopes of finding survivors diminished as helicopters combed the sea close to the crash site and reported nothing but oil stains

and objects near the coast that looked like baggage.

Aeroperu spokeswoman Marcela Velarde said the plane was carrying 61 passengers and nine crew.

Officials of Boeing, engine maker Pratt & Whitney, the US Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board, were headed to the crash site to assist Peruvian investigators.

The jet left Lima at 12:32 a.m. local time en route to the Chilean capital of Santiago, according to Aeroperu. It reported technical problems and lost contact at 1:10 a.m. before apparently trying to return to Lima and then crashing off Pasamayo, 87 km north of the capital.

The crash, one of the worst in Peru's aviation history, came seven months after a Boeing 737 belonging to local Faucett airline crashed and killed all 123 people on board near Peru's second city, Arequipa. (Reuters)

Taleban, Masood prepare for battle in Afghanistan

KABUL (Reuters) - Afghanistan's Islamic Taleban militia and the forces of former government military chief Ahmad Shah Masood were ready for battle yesterday, with the militia poised at the door of Masood's valley stronghold.

However, the militia appeared to be backing away from a standoff with powerful warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum, apparently moving to head off a potential alliance between the northern leader and Masood.

Masood declared a state of emergency in the Panjsher Valley and ordered an evacuation in anticipation of an attack.

The Taleban have bottled up the valley after sweeping north from Kabul over the past few days, capturing Golbazar town 10 km away. The militia now controls three-quarters of Afghanistan.

The mostly ethnic Pashtun mil-

itia had said it would attack the Panjsher Valley if Masood did not surrender.

But there was no sign among Masood's mostly ethnic Tajik men in the Panjsher that surrender was under consideration. All the activity was aimed at preparing defenses.

Hundreds of women, children and the elderly clambered out of the valley to head for safety into territory controlled by the Taleban. The only people going in were men of fighting age.

If the Taleban did attack the Panjsher, they would enter it only with enormous difficulty.

Masood's defense of the valley against repeated Soviet assaults in the 1980s won him a reputation as one of the best guerrilla chiefs in the war against the then Moscow-backed communist government.

After Masood and northern warlord Dostum appeared to be explor-

ing an alliance on Tuesday, Taleban Acting Deputy Foreign Minister Sher Mohammed Stanakzai told reporters he had no quarrel with Dostum.

Stanakzai spoke on Wednesday as Taleban fighters were squaring off against Dostum's Jumbish-i-Milli militia at the mouth of the Salang tunnel, which forms part of the strategic Salang highway, a vital link between Kabul and the north of the country and the former Soviet republics of Central Asia beyond.

Dostum, who controls large portions of northern Afghanistan, has managed to distance his forces from the fighting between Taleban and the former Kabul government, which he also opposed.

Tanks, heavy artillery and multiple launch Grad missiles of Dostum were dug in at both ends of the Salang tunnel yesterday.

Bulgarian ex-PM killed, terrorism crackdown urged

SOFIA (Reuters) - Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev urged uncompromising measures to fight terrorism after the murder of former prime minister Andrei Lukanov yesterday, but parliament said the act should not lead to a state of emergency.

"Decisive and uncompromising measures in the framework of the law are needed against all acts of terrorism," Zhelev said, describing Lukanov's murder as political.

Lukanov, 58, a millionaire businessman and parliamentarian for the ruling Socialists, was found shot dead at his Sofia home. State radio said he had been probably been killed at around 9.30 a.m.

"The tragic case with Andrei Lukanov shows again that the fight against terrorism, organized crime and the mafia requires the united efforts of all institutions and cooperation with all countries," Zhelev said in an address to the nation.

State radio said the gun used to kill Lukanov may have been fitted with a silencer since neighbors had not heard any noise.



British Labor Party leader Tony Blair (center), accompanied by education spokesman David Blunkett, visit school pupils yesterday at the Burnt Naze Primary School in Blackpool before the start of the third day of the Labor Party Conference. Blunkett was expected to address the conference and announce plans for literacy summer schools for children having difficulty in reading. (Reuters)

Britain's octuplet mother loses last four babies

LONDON (Reuters) - A British woman who decided to go ahead with trying to give birth to octuplets against doctors' advice miscarried the last four of her babies yesterday, the hospital where she is being treated said.

Mandy Allwood, 31, lost three of her babies in the 19th week of her pregnancy on Monday. Doctors said then that it would be a miracle if the rest of the babies survived.

Another died early yesterday and the last four were miscarried in the late afternoon.

"We regret to announce that Mandy Allwood has now lost her four remaining babies," King's College Hospital in London said in a statement.

Allwood, a divorced single mother, was determined to go ahead and try to have all eight babies despite medical advice that they would fail to survive or be born severely handicapped.

Her decision in August to try to become the first woman in the world to give birth to eight babies made headlines in Britain and around the world.

Controversy mounted when a tabloid newspaper offered her a £1 million (\$1.5 million) contract if all the babies were born alive.

Allwood became pregnant after taking powerful fertility drugs and ignoring medical advice to avoid sex for a while.

Doctors warned her it would be better to abort some of the fetuses to give the others a chance of survival. She refused.

Former French Scientologists testify of intense pressure

LYON, France (Reuters) - Former followers of the French Church of Scientology accused it in court yesterday of applying intense mental pressure and extracting large sums of money from those who joined it.

"I suffered a lot," said Marie-There Massard, 60, with tears in her eyes as she spoke of sessions of questioning by church officers at which she had to stand against a wall with arms apart.

"They shouted at me and pulled me," said Massard who told the court that she gave the church a million francs (\$200,000) over four years.

Roman Catholic priest Louis-Michel Broiles, 53, said the Church of Scientology with which he flirted received 500,000 francs (\$100,000) from him for "purification sessions." He said he had received the money from an elderly woman.

"It is completely different from the Catholic church because there is no God in it," he said.

The ex-followers were testifying at the trial of 23 French Scientologists in the central city of Lyon in a case expected to provide a rare glimpse of the organization's inner workings.

The trial, which began on

Monday and is expected to last seven days, was triggered by the 1988 suicide of a church follower in Lyon.

Prosecutors accuse the church of "exploiting the good faith and gullibility of its victims for commercial profit, through pseudo-scientific and paramedical means, to their financial detriment and at their medical and psychological risk."

If found guilty, the defendants face up to five years in jail and fines of up to five million francs (\$1 million) on charges ranging from manslaughter to embezzlement to fraud and complicity.

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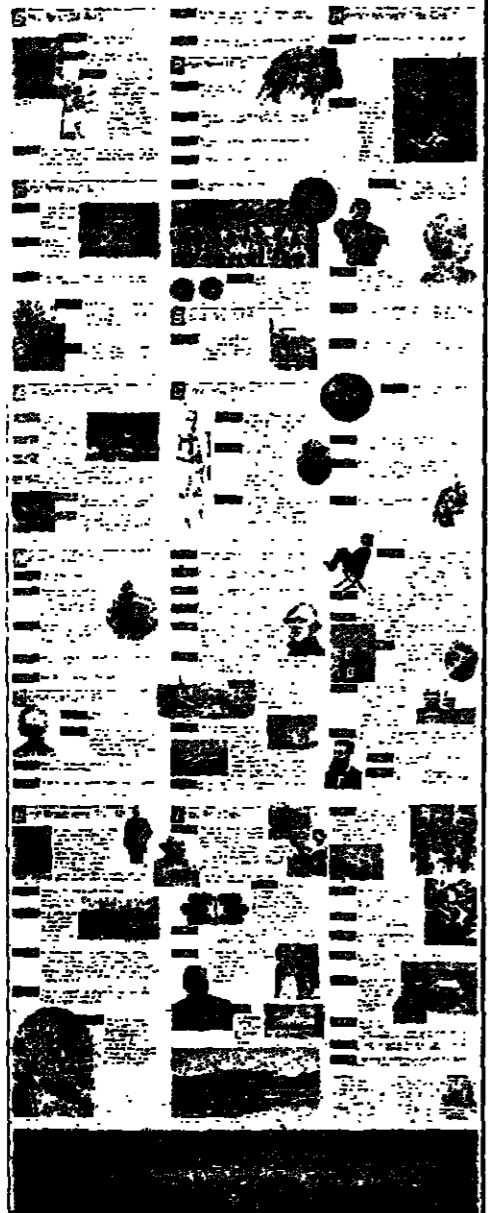
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Take a good look at expiration date of food products

YEARS ago, a camera crew from the evening news entered a local supermarket to get some footage of the average Israeli shopper during times of extreme inflation.

"How much does milk cost today?" asked the eager reporter, as he thrust his microphone under the chin of a woman poring over a liter bag.

"I don't know, and couldn't care less," she said, still carefully studying the bag. "I have to buy milk no matter what it costs."

"Then why are you scanning the label so intently?" the puzzled reporter wanted to know.

"I'm looking for the expiration date," she said.

I remember laughing when I saw this little item on the news. Today, I could cry when I contemplate all the precious time wasted while forced to engage in similar supermarket pursuits.

Particularly enraging is the phenomenon of purchasing a food product with a satisfactory expiration date, only to discover that the food is spoiled anyway.

G.R. bought a few packets of Marina vermicelli rice at the market. The sticker label on each packet said "produced 10/1/96; best before 10/1/98."

Upon arriving home, G.R. peeled off the stickers. To his dismay, he was met with a very different label, reading "produced 10/1/94; best before 10/1/96."

CAVEAT EMPTOR!
RUTHIE BLUM

This discrepancy of two years made G.R. feel duped by Marina, the Israeli importer of the rice, which comes from Bangkok. He wants to know whether importers can get away with buying old products and selling them with labels misleading the consumer into believing they are fresh.

Import and marketing manager of Marina foods, Yossi Attar attributes the label discrepancy to packaging alone.

"In order to do business with the company in Thailand which produces the rice [as well as other food products], we are forced to commit to purchasing a certain size of shipment," he explained. "The packets in which the rice is packaged are produced in huge quantities with the dates printed directly on them. The fresh rice is put into these packets on various dates, but to avoid waste, the Thai exporter does not destroy the packets. Instead, we the importers update the stickers which indicate the real expiration dates."

The Hebrew stickers, by the way, are produced abroad. To prove that he could not be inventing his story, Attar reminded me that two-year-old rice would be crumbling and impossible to cook properly.

He also pointed to the strin-

gent inspections made on shipments of food products by the Health Ministry and harsh punishments imposed on violators of regulations.

Not only does an importer have to give a NIS 20,000 bank guarantee to the ministry to hold a license, which is immediately cashed if he violates the terms of the license, but his merchandise can be confiscated and his license suspended or revoked.

"Believe me, it's cheaper to destroy merchandise (e.g. cans of tuna) than to produce labels with misleading information on them," he said. "Ironically, it is the food packages without stickers produced abroad which are not examined closely by the ministry."

Without revealing "trade" secrets, he suggested it is those importers who make their own labels in Israel who can get away with "monkey business."

Chocolate importers, he said, are the worst offenders. But how can the consumer differentiate between labels produced abroad and those made here? Your guess is as good as mine.

If you suspect foul play is involved in foul food, contact the Food Control Administration at the Health Ministry at (03) 563-4782.

You are invited to offer personal stories about goods and services in this country. Write to Ruthie Blum, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

Long and lean this winter

SUMMER is traditionally the season in which we diet like crazy so we can look good in a swimsuit, and winter is the time we let ourselves go, living in the false illusion that with all the padding which is part and parcel of winter dressing, no one will notice a little extra flesh.

The bad news is that this year there's no faking it. Padding is out. Bye-bye shoulder pads. Farewell padded bras. Au revoir the camouflage of loose layering.

Winter 1996/97 will be remembered as the long lean season of slim-fitting pants suits teamed with snug shirts and sweaters.

Styling is spare, but more often soft than severe.

Adornment is generally limited to buttons - in some cases lots of gold, silver or copper col-

FLAIR
GREER FAY CASHMAN

ored buttons to give the semblance of a military look.

This doesn't quite gel with the political pursuit of peace. But then again, fashion and politics are not always on the same wavelength, though fashion often sends out many messages which politicians attempt to deny.

The moral of the story is that if you have overindulged a little during the holidays, now is the time to make amends. You don't have to go on a crash diet, but additional exercise won't go amiss.

If you're not into daily workouts, make sure you go for a brisk one-hour walk every day -

twice a day if possible. It's amazing how much you can keep yourself in trim just by walking. And of course, if you really want to show off that new pants suit, striding through the part of town where most of your friends hang out will be a joy once you've got rid of your overabundant.

By the way, if you want to buy yourself something new before you go on the diet, go for ankle boots - which will soon proliferate on pavements throughout the country at an average price of around NIS 500 to NIS 600 per pair.

If your budget doesn't stretch that far, look for a good reason to go to Jaffa, where more often than not footwear is much more reasonably priced than elsewhere in the country.

Russia's private bakers raise ire of bread police

RUSSIAN bread-baking, once the domain of bureaucrats who controlled every kernel of wheat, is increasingly in the hands of entrepreneurs who want a slice of the action in Russia's most important food.

Scores of mini-bakeries have sprung up in Moscow and other cities, with everyone from nuclear physicists to plumbers cashing in on demand for a centuries-old staple that nearly every Russian eats every day.

The boom in private bakeries sits well with customers eager to avoid the lines at formerly state-run bakeries. But it is giving Russia's top bread official indignation.

"Many new businessmen don't have enough specialist education to bake bread," said Igor Chekmezov, head of the government's State Bread Inspectorate, who wants to see baking licensed. "We checked a host of mini-bakeries and found not specialists, but rather everybody from toilet repairmen to Academy of Sciences members trying to bake bread."

The inspectorate, otherwise known as Russia's bread police, is a key ingredient in Kremlin policies on grain in the new market economy, advising cabinet officials on everything from price regulation to wheat imports.

"Bread is a special product in Russia - it's holy," Chekmezov said in an interview. "It's in our

genes to relate to it in a particularly careful way."

Private bakers say their recipe for success stems as much from the laws of supply and demand as from the potent symbolism of Russia's most basic food.

The 500 or so mini-bakeries in the capital already supply 12 percent of the city's market, the Moscow Guild of Bakers said.

At Our Bread, a private mini-bakery in central Moscow, 22-year-old director Alexei Nikishov said business was rising.

Standing on a flour-dusted floor as three women poked poppy seeds and raisins into buns, he said, "I've learned all this myself, and if I had to turn out the sweet rolls or loaves without any help, I could."

Such free, deregulated use of grain - a commodity Lenin once called "the currency of currencies" - was unheard of in the Soviet era, when officials tracked the movement of every parcel.

Now farmers are largely free to sell most of their wheat as they wish, and imports of flour have soared.

That worries Chekmezov, a man who remembered how Russians went wild eating the soft centers of loaves when World War II ended after years of starvation-level rations.

He said many private mini-bakeries - unlike Our Bread - sold their goods from dusty wooden crates in filthy sur-

roundings outside rat-infested train stations and ramshackle kiosks.

Much Russian bread these days crumbles or is stale - a sign of low gluten, the protein that distinguishes bread-making wheat from cattle feed.

The State Health Inspectorate estimated that more than a third of mini-bakeries in Moscow violate sanitation norms.

"There is cause for alarm, with some elements that are banned in the West being used in baking these days," Chekmezov said, adding that some Russian bread had shown high levels of salts, heavy metals, pesticides and additives.

While Chekmezov said quality at some of the new bakeries was debatable, he credited the newly-open grain trade, including private mini-bakeries, with allowing some regions to avoid the notorious bread-rationing coupons familiar in recent decades.

Russian imports of wheat flour, mostly from Eastern Europe, Kazakhstan and Ukraine, rose nearly 20-fold from July 1995 to June 1996 to nearly one million tonnes compared with levels a year ago - testimony to growing output by private bakeries.

"This is the third year in a row we're going to have a bad harvest, and we're getting by thanks to the developing grain trade," Chekmezov said. (Reuter)

Cellphones are close to our hearts - but what if you have a pacemaker?

CELLULAR telephones are safe for wearers of cardiac pacemakers if used properly, a study group backed by the wireless-communications industry said this week.

Wireless Technology Research said users should keep cell phones at least 15 centimeters from their pacemakers and, if the phones are turned on, not place them over pacemakers - in breast pockets, for example.

It said it had found the phones to pose no threat to bystanders with

pacemakers.

Chairman George Carlo told a news conference the group had been formed to study the effect on pacemakers of radio transmissions from cellular phones after reports from Europe and Australia said the phones had sped the devices up or slowed them down.

He said that although no cases of adverse health reactions had been reported, the study had been commissioned because of the "potential" health problem.

While the group was funded by

the cellular phone industry, its scientists had been isolated from it and their work put under peer review, he said.

"If the pacemaker wearer uses the phone to our recommendations, there should not be a risk of interference," Carlo told the news conference.

He estimated that about 100,000 people with pacemakers were potential regular users of wireless phones.

He said there was no evidence that cordless phones used in homes

posed a risk to pacemaker wearers.

The Food and Drug Administration said in a statement at a symposium before the news conference that a federal study had found that the vast majority of phones tested did not interact with pacemakers at a distance of 15 centimeters or more.

The FDA backed the 15-centimeter rule but said it would review the relationship between cellular phones and pacemakers after other studies had been completed. (Reuter)

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- 10-SPEED BIKE - lightweight, good condition. 02-534-1563.
- TRICYCLE - NIS 50; sofa, sleeps 2, NIS 300. 02-563-1294.
- SOLID MAHOGANY 4-POSTER - double bed, box springs, mattress, 57 cm. wide x 204 cm long, NIS 500 o.b.o. 02-678-7332.
- 2 WOODEN TABLES - legs need repair, NIS 100 for both. 02-643-3068, NS.
- DOUBLE STROLLER - excellent condition, NIS 200. 02-581-4780.
- VACUUM CLEANER - excellent condition, NIS 200. 02-678-6958.
- AVIV ENCYCLOPAEDIA - 16 vol., excellent condition, NIS 350. 02-581-5416.
- CHILD'S BALLET SHOES - pink, excellent condition, size 26, NIS 40; schoolbag, new, green plaid, 4 pockets, by Hader, NIS 80; humidifier, scarcely used, NIS 40. 02-676-7967, NS.
- VELOUR HOUSECOAT - dark blue, beaded, small size, full length, new, NIS 140. 02-571-0206, NS.
- YOUTH BED - plus storage box, no mattress, NIS 50; working oven, Telem, NIS 90. 02-673-4758.
- GYM SHOES - new, white, Velcro closure, size 11 wide, US, NIS 75. 02-642-1091, NS.
- TWIN BEDS - Slumberland spring mattress and base, head boards, good condition, NIS 200 o.b.o. 02-581-5620, NS.
- SUCCA - good condition, NIS 350. 02-673-6430.
- SUCCA - metal frame, cloth walls, used once, NIS 300. 02-533-0905.
- CHILDREN'S BOOKS - Anne of Green Gables, set of 3 books, NIS 50; other children's classics, NIS 8 each. 02-673-4276, NS.
- BLACK PUMPS - black oxfords, grey pumps, size 42, new, NIS 75 each. 02-586-6954.
- CARPET FOR STAIRS - 18 m, NIS 250. 02-586-3824.
- LIGHT BOX - stretching table, NIS 200; used guitar, NIS 100. 02-563-0677, NS.
- REEBOK TENNIS SHOES - never worn, size 10 1/2, NIS 220. 02-678-6269.
- OVER 50 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHICS - including years 1986-1990 complete, NIS 200. 02-534-8183.
- WASHING MACHINE - in working order, NIS 280. 02-673-2331, NS.
- SCHICHI ILLUSTRATED BAGGADA - mint condition, NIS 330. 02-361-0437, NS.
- "HISTORY OF ART" - H.W. Jansen, hard cover, 2 months old, NIS 200. Nechama, 02-643-7699.
- TENNIS SHOES - Converse, black, size 10 or 44, new, NIS 175. 02-534-6018.
- COOKER - gas hob with electric oven, in working order, NIS 280. 02-673-2331, NS.
- COLOR TV - 24", NIS 350. 02-671-6316.
- 2 LADIES WINTER JACKETS - size 44, beige and black, NIS 150 each. 02-678-2694.
- BEZEL TELEPHONE LINE AND TELEPHONE - NIS 300. 02-536-3560, NS.
- ELECTRIC TYPEWRITER - Smith-Corona, excellent condition, NIS 100. 02-357-2394.
- VACUUM CLEANER - Crosley, hardly used, NIS 100. 02-670-2911.
- DIAPER BAG - Land's End, NIS 100; booster seats, NIS 25 each. 02-673-2302.
- 4 LIGHT FITTINGS - NIS 30, NIS 40, NIS 50, and NIS 60. 02-670-2911.
- PORTABLE PRINTER - Canon Bubble Jet, BJ 10 E with feeder and manual, excellent condition, NIS 250. 02-671-0603.
- VIDEO/PHOTO TRIPOD - never used, new in box, NIS 150; Roadster car radio/cassette player, NIS 50. 02-673-4275, NS.
- CAR RADIO/TAPE - pull-out, good condition, NIS 150; desert cooler, on wheels, NIS 200. 02-561-0746.
- EVANUKKIVA - sterling silver, NIS 300. 02-538-1221, exp. 48.
- STROLLER - Century Travel-Lite, 3 months old, NIS 230; Gerry Back Pack child carrier, new, NIS 280; portable pony seat, NIS 40. 02-563-0712, NS.
- LEVI'S 501 - women's, 30 W, 30 L, mid-blue color, NIS 200. 02-999-0178, NS.
- GIRL'S SHABRAT DRESS - size 16, long sleeve, high neck, new, NIS 200. 02-566-5269, NS.
- 59 FOSAMAX TABLETS - 10 mg, NIS 250. 02-563-6339, NS.
- OVEN - in good condition, NIS 300. 02-533-6808.
- BROTHER DOT-MATRIX PRINTER - NIS 300. 02-581-6365, NS.
- ROUND OUTDOOR TABLE - wrought iron with 4 bi-no chairs, NIS 150; ice-cream maker, Magmix, Italy, almost new, NIS 200. 02-673-2223.
- TELEPHONE ANSWERING MACHINE - Panasonic, NIS 250. 02-678-5560, NS.
- TREADMILE - new, NIS 350. 02-620-2577, 652-8415.
- THREE STOOGES VIDEOS - NIS 25 each. 02-642-4216, NS.
- PRINTER - NIS 220. 052-560-4221.
- COLLAPSIBLE SOFA - good condition, NIS 350. 02-586-5839, NS.
- 5 OIL PAINTINGS - FREE to charitable organization; plastic toolbox/art bin, NIS 20; 24 colored charcoal pencils, NIS 20; acrylic color paint set, 12 tubes, NIS 20. 02-617-0536, NS.
- COMFORTER FOR DOUBLE BED - very warm, excellent condition, NIS 100. 02-561-0733.
- NON-STICK COOKWARE T-Fal 8-piece set, almost new, NIS 250. 02-538-5024.
- ACEY CARRIAGE - 5 months, Segal, NIS 300. 02-623-5623.
- SOFT SPOTS LEATHER SHOES - black, 39 wide fitting, new and unworn, NIS 260. 02-533-1975, NS.

WANTED

- FAX MACHINE & TYPEWRITER - good condition. 08-924-7891.
- PUBLIC TELEPHONE WITH STAND - for BEST protection. To buy or borrow. 02-583-8518, NS.
- CONVERTIBLE SOFA - and wooden bookcase. 02-563-4494.
- LAP-TOP COMPUTER - desperately sought by Gan Harmony, Kimberly, 02-651-9234.
- WASHING MACHINE - good condition, reasonable price. 02-641-9134.
- ELECTRONIC DICTIONARY - plain English. 02-581-4578.
- GAS DRYER - good condition. 02-534-0474.
- WOODEN TABLE FOR SUCCA - reasonable price. 02-643-3068, NS.
- METAL OFFICE CABINET - (military cabinet). 02-656-0561, NS.
- CROCK POT - 220 V, new or in excellent condition. 02-585-9177.
- BOOK ON PEDICURE - in English. 02-994-3704, NS.
- DRUMS - used, in good condition. 02-673-2838, NS.
- FRIDGE - NIS 300; sofa bed, NIS 50. 02-622-2031, even.
- 14 INK CARTRIDGES - black and color, for Canon BJC 600/610 printer, NIS 25 each. 02-992-2817, NS.
- CHANGING TABLE WITH DRAWERS - NIS 300. 02-673-3316, NS.
- TYPEWRITER - Hebrew or Hebrew-English needed for synagogue. 02-993-1652, NS.
- VIOLA CASE - or viola and case for immigrant pupil, EXTRA SLOW RELEASE KITALIN - (8-hour), or how to obtain stay in this country. 050-802537, 9-11 pm, NS.
- VIDEO CASSETTES - unused, as donation to chronic-care facilities. 02-653-5347.
- LAP-TOP COMPUTER - for disabled young man. 02-582-1106.
- USED PIANO - 02-625-7303.
- WASHER AND DRYER - in good condition, for large family. 02-624-1390.

PETS

- KITTENS - playful, healthy, independent, free to good homes. 09-550149 (Herziya).
- SOFT-COATED WHEATON TERRIER - speyed female, 2 1/2 years, good with children, free to loving home. 03-510-7575 (wk); 02-561-9126 (am).

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Narrowing the gap within

While it is still early to judge its final outcome, the summit in Washington between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, and the debate which is sure to follow, should not make Israelis fatalistically accept the verbal exchanges between left- and right-wing politicians as reflecting what is often dubbed as "a deeply divided society."



Hebron at the heart

URI DAN DENNIS EISENBERG

It was on the eve of Binyamin Netanyahu's flight to Washington earlier this week. The prime minister's reply to the BBC reporter was sharp when she asked why he had delayed in ordering the redeployment of Israeli troops from Hebron.

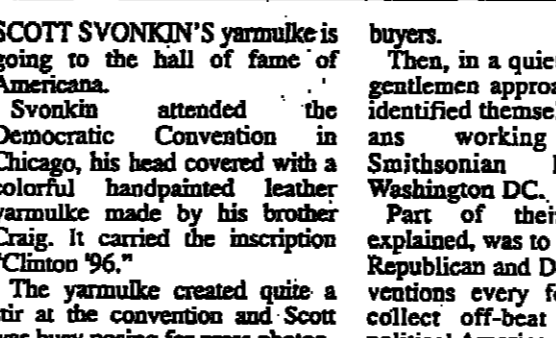
'Primitive right wingers' don't figure in a secret plan to form a coalition of 'peace-seeking moderates'

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LABOR'S INFAMY HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

Sir, - "Luckily" for Netanyahu, talks between Israel and Syria broke down while Labor held the reins of power, and this with the Golan Heights snugly folded in Assad's pocket, lock stock and barrel.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



It's the shower curtain from hell: On sale in Berlin, the 'Psycho Shower Curtain' features a depiction of the classic film sequence.

POSTSCRIPTS

SCOTT SVONKIN'S yarmulke is going to the hall of fame of Americana. Svonkin attended the Democratic Convention in Chicago, his head covered with a colorful handpainted leather yarmulke made by his brother Craig. It carried the inscription "Clinton '96."

URI DAN DENNIS EISENBERG

Arab city to fall into his hands, and Arafat knows his prestige will soar if he can crown himself "king" there.

immense pressure to bow to this demand. "I gave him three chances to take action on Hebron," declared Egypt's Hosni Mubarak a week ago.

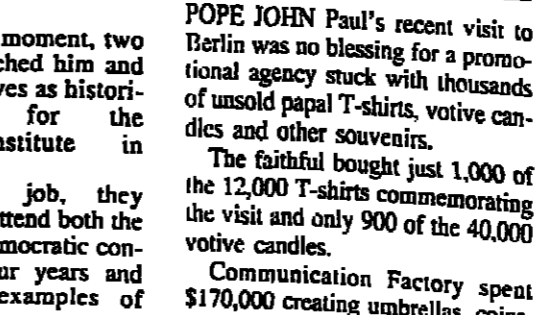
LABOR'S INFAMY

Sir, - "Luckily" for Netanyahu, talks between Israel and Syria broke down while Labor held the reins of power, and this with the Golan Heights snugly folded in Assad's pocket, lock stock and barrel.

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

Sir, - The experience of the Holocaust was harrowing in the extreme; yet many of the people who went through it were silent about their dreadful experiences for decades.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



It's the shower curtain from hell: On sale in Berlin, the 'Psycho Shower Curtain' features a depiction of the classic film sequence.

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At least now we can stop asking ourselves that nagging political question: Who is Binyamin Netanyahu? The debate turned on whether he was a right-wing ideologue or merely ambitious, an empty opportunist who would do whatever was necessary to get along.

The consensus, especially after he was elected, went toward the latter view. Remember the term most often used to describe him - "pragmatist"? Anybody ready to call Netanyahu a pragmatist now?

Most people wanted to believe that Netanyahu wouldn't send the peace process into a spin, that he wouldn't knock heads with the Palestinians; and since they feared a real Likud hawk would do just that, they convinced themselves that our new Likud prime minister was a pragmatist. Well, live and learn.

Now we know Netanyahu's an ideologue

power and courage to hold onto all of their land - to "resist" their enemies - plus the brains to get the world, especially the US, on their side.

ON THE important things, he's consistent. He's said thousands of times that Yasser Arafat and the PLO have one goal: the destruction of Israel. The Oslo agreement didn't change Netanyahu's mind: It was, he insisted, a giant leap forward in the PLO's 1974 Phased Plan, which is why Arafat signed it.

If Netanyahu has an updated view of Israel's partner in the peace process, no one has heard it. So when he says he's committed to making peace with Arafat and the Palestinians, what the hell can he mean?

We just found out what he means. There are two ways for enemies to make peace. The first is when both compromise, the second is when one surrenders; and Netanyahu is going full-bore for the second way.

The writer is a journalist living in Tel Aviv.

The Jerusalem Post Live & Learn LARRY DERFNER

Break out of that vicious cycle

DEAR RUTHIE RUTHIE BLUM

Dear Ruthie, I am 27 years old and single. I am emotional every time I get angry. To be frank, I am not happy in my life. I have many friends but I am not an outgoing type of person like they are. Can you advise me what to do? I know I am still young and I want to feel real happiness.

with his mother. Now that she has left, I feel I need a vacation by myself, and I said as much to my husband. Now he is angry, because he cannot take time off of work to take care of the children. I am always giving in to him. Should I make this a test case?

Dear Miss Disheartened, Since everyone is "emotional" when angry, I assume you mean that you act out your emotions in a way which might be deemed excessive. The vicious cycle you must be experiencing whereby unhappiness leads to anger and anger to unhappiness needs to be broken.

Dear Ruthie, My mother-in-law came to stay with us for the holidays and drove us all crazy, especially my husband. She is a very critical woman and very demanding. She spends more time disciplining her grandchildren than she does enjoying them.

Dear Ruthie, My mother-in-law came to stay with us for the holidays and drove us all crazy, especially my husband. She is a very critical woman and very demanding. She spends more time disciplining her grandchildren than she does enjoying them.

Unless you actually demanded that he behave differently, you are as much a participant in the dynamic here as he. If you kept all your anger bottled up during the visit, and then decided to take revenge by taking off alone, then you are not making a proper test case. You are merely venting rage.

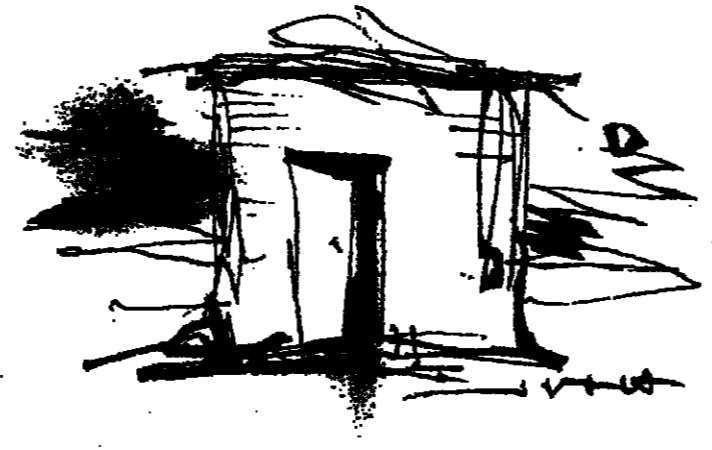
LEAH ABRAMOWITZ

PROF. Yehuda Feliks is used to taking a controversial stand on flora and fauna in the Bible. The Four Species that symbolize Succot - the lulav, the etrog, the willow and the myrtle - are repeatedly given homiletic and moral interpretations in Jewish folklore: categories of Jews, parts of the body, degree of religiosity, etc.



Feliks, a Bar-Ilan University professor of biblical and talmudic botany, maintains that the literal meaning from the Torah is correct - that "all four species are associated with water, and all represent a different farming zone in Israel."

long until Pessah," he adds. "The last day of Succot, Hoshana Rabba, is considered a mini-Yom Kippur because we are judged for water on that day, how much rain will fall."



The water-drawing ceremony which took place in the Temple during Succot is reenacted in our time with boisterous singing and dancing at most yeshivot during the intermediate days. "On Succot we begin the prayer for rain... that's recited all winter

of water," Feliks points out. "So do the other species that we bless on this holiday - the lulav, the myrtle and the etrog."



The etrog is the only citrus fruit known to have grown here in ancient times. However it does not grow wild but needs constant irrigation.

Willow boughs decorated the ark of the Temple during biblical times, Feliks says. Today, in Europe, willow is again grown widely for its use in paper manufacturing. The willow grows on the banks of streams.

The ancient etrog was not as bitter as our current ones," Feliks says. "It was eaten by the children as a goody and used for its smell as perfume and as an antidote to snake bites."

The other wild-growing species, the myrtle (hadass), has a good smell and was used to make wreaths for conquerors or bridegrooms and for those bringing the First Fruits.

But joy is not the only theme of the symbols of Succot. The Four Species are also connected to the four major agricultural areas of Israel, according to Feliks.

"The lulav grows in hot, moist valleys, e.g. the Beit She'an, Jordan and Jericho valleys," he says. "The willow (arava) is found near rivers, streams and waterways. The myrtle (hadass) comes from the hills of Judea and Galilee, while the etrog is associated with irrigated farmlands."

When on Succot they are held in unison for the blessing on the lulav and etrog, one is actually grasping the whole Land of Israel in one's hand.

East Germans actually miss 'the good old days'

HE looks like Erich Honecker. Dresses, walks, and talks like Erich Honecker. And he even winks to the crowds like him.

Girls, and erotic dancers called "The Magdeburger Models" who strip off their East German army uniforms.

"Before it was something of a burden. But now I am filling a market niche," he added, smiling at his use of free-market terminology that is still new to the east.

Whether swinging his hips to techno versions of political songs or being escorted by long-legged girls in the uniforms of the defunct Communist youth organization (FDJ), Schmidt - so unlike the real Honecker - is the ever-smiling center of attention.

While a good number of the older eastern Germans may miss the soft net of socialism and want East Germany back, most younger easterners at the parties are just looking for laughs.

But then came German unification. He was told to turn in his badge because he wore eyeglasses.

Six years after Germany unified on October 3, 1990, nostalgia for a lost eastern identity remains as powerful as it is improbable.

They stood in long queues to buy their "visas" (entrance fee) and "exchange" their Deutsche marks for the Ostmarks needed inside to pay for drinks with such memorable names as "Lenin Vodka" and "Erich's Revenge."

"It feels good," Uhlmann said. "It feels very good." (Reuters)

That longing is most visible at the "Ostalgie" (Eastern nostalgia) parties that attract up to 4,000 easterners ranging from their early teens to their late 80s into provincial discotheques.

"Everyone now has the material things they always dreamed of having, like a car or a video recorder, but they often don't have a job anymore," he added. "So many have lost their jobs, their places in society and their self-respect. It's no wonder they are happy to see Erich Honecker in here again."

"I've looked like Erich for the last 30 years," said Schmidt.

Cold War lingers in Berlin bedrooms

THE Cold War divisions that split Berlin may have disappeared from its streets and skyline in the seven years since the Berlin Wall fell, but another kind of cold war still lingers in the city's bedrooms.

Intermarriage rates are studied closely by anthropologists, who can gauge a society's readiness to integrate based on whether or not women of the native group mate, or are permitted to, with men from groups or societies from the "outside."

literally prefers separate bedrooms to a single king-sized bed.

Eastern men don't always feel they have to be the center of attention like Westies," she added. "They think they know everything and that they have to teach us everything. They treat us like we're all dumb."

Berlin - at least when it comes to mating - is still not a city where East meets West.

Further underscoring the alarming animosity between men and women in the east and west is the fact that, even though they turn a cold shoulder to each other for intimate partnerships, Berliners have once again opened their arms wide to foreigners.

"The Westies," she added, using a derogatory term for easterners, "were raised in their world of communism and they think everything was better then and everything now is bad. So many of them are just dumb and lazy Ossies."

There is no denying the fact that there are still large problems between the east and the west," Dickersbach said. "It will take a generation or two for these problems to disappear."

While Germany will be celebrating the sixth anniversary of its political reunion on October 3, the minuscule number of emotional unions between easterners and westerners offers a telling glimpse of what really happens behind closed doors in the still-polarized city.

West Berliners, for example, were five times more likely to marry foreigners in 1995 than men or women from the eastern half of their city.

But the Berliners' resistance to normal mating patterns paints an ominous portrait of a city that quite

He's just got married - to a woman from Tanzania. (Reuters)

SYRIA AND ISRAEL - From War to Peace-making. Moshe Ma'oz examines the history of relations between Israel and Syria throughout the Middle Eastern conflict, demonstrating its crucial importance for the strategic posture of both countries, for the fate of the Palestinian problem, and for the prospects of an overall Middle East peace settlement. Published by Oxford University Press, 1995. Hardcover, 262 pp. JP Price NIS 149 plus NIS 6 p & h in Israel

To: Books, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000 Please send me Syria and Israel by Moshe Ma'oz. Enclosed is my check for NIS 155 payable to The Jerusalem Post, or credit card details: VISA DISCARD DINERS AMEX

THE POMEGRANATE PENDANT: A Historical Novel by Dvora Novisman. This is a novel of Jerusalem, seen through the eyes of Mezzal ben-Yichya - a fourteen year old newlywed in Sana'a in the year 1881, through the years in the Jewish Quarter, to the finale in 1956. The events, people and streets of Jerusalem are made real for the reader. "I closed the book reluctantly: I did not want the spell to be broken." Reuven Ben Dov, The Jerusalem Post Magazine. Hardcover, 217 pp. JP Price: NIS 49 incl. VAT, plus NIS 5 for mailing in Israel.

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Key Representative Rates table showing US dollar, Sterling, and Mark exchange rates.

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET table with columns for Name, Price, Change, and Volume.

New York market indexes table listing DJ Industrial, NYSE, and NASDAQ indices.

Other stock market indexes table listing FTSE 100, Nikkei, and Hang Seng indices.

Israeli stocks in NY table listing companies like Intel and Bank Leumi.

Trade & Services table listing various service companies.

Real Estate table listing various real estate listings.

Commodities table listing various commodity prices.

Foreign financial data table listing various international financial metrics.

Libor rates table listing various interest rates.

US commodities table listing various commodity prices.

London commodities table listing various commodity prices.

Spot market metals table listing various metal prices.

New York metal futures table listing various metal futures prices.

London metal fixes table listing various metal prices.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Main stock market table with columns for Name, Price, Change, and Volume, categorized into Multi-sided trading and Two-sided trading.

Shares little changed as investors wait

TELEVISION STOCK MARKET. Shares little changed as investors wait for the results of the Washington summit.

European markets zoom to new highs

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP. LONDON (Reuters) - European stocks drove to new heights yesterday.

The dollar briefly drove through the key 112 yen level in the European afternoon for its best performance against the Japanese currency since January 24, 1994.

Dow shatters record

WALL STREET REPORT. NEW YORK (Reuters) - Stocks shattered more records yesterday, aided by renewed vigor in technology shares.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Currency cross-rates table showing exchange rates for various currencies.

BRIEFS

Day, October 3, 1996. Brief news items including government announcements and local events.

Yields

Yields in Sept. Discussion of interest rates and market movements.

Water park

Water park. Advertisement for a water park in Ramon.

MONEY MARKET

MONEY MARKET. Advertisement for a money market service.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK logo and name.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table of international stock prices for various countries and companies.

Over 30,000 join in Jerusalem march

Organizers strive to keep politics out of event

THOUSANDS participated in yesterday's Jerusalem March, and its organizers' concern that recent unrest would produce a low turnout at the annual event turned out to be unfounded.

Streets in central Jerusalem were closed for several hours, as participants from Israel and around the world marched through the city. Organizers said the event was a great success, and estimated that more than 30,000 people took place. Police declined to give an estimate.

Several scout groups angrily quit the march after right-wing activists placed pro-government signs by the main stage in Sacher Park, where Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert and other officials sat. Israeli Radio

BILL HUTMAN

reported. Organizers said they tried to keep the event non-political.

However, the right-wing Meimatz group organized a rally at Sacher Park last night, which coincided with the march's closing ceremony. The municipality said that it could not block the Meimatz rally, but that it would not give it a platform at the march's closing ceremony.

Most of those who came to the park last night were Orthodox, while many from the organized groups which had participated in the march did not attend.

The largest group participating was organized by the International Christian Embassy, which brought

over 6,000 Christians from around the world to Jerusalem to take part in the march and other events in its Feast of the Tabernacles this week.

Johann Luckhoff, ICE director, said the march was "an overwhelming display of friendship and support [for Israel]."

Christian groups from as far away as Vietnam, and as close as Jordan and Egypt, took part, with the largest delegation, some 800 people, coming from Brazil.

The Christian visitors plan to walk through the Hasmonaean Tunnel this morning to show their support for the government's decision to open it. They will call on the government not to succumb to international pressure and have it closed, ICE officials said.



Thousands parade through Jerusalem yesterday as part of the annual Jerusalem March. (Ephraim Kishon)

WEATHER

Haifa	18-23
Tiberias	20-24
Akko	18-21
Sameria	17-23
Tel Aviv	20-29
Jerusalem	17-23
BeerSheva	18-30
Dead Sea	25-36
Eilat	25-31

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. Slightly cooler.

'Peres, don't go' call his supporters

A FEW dozen of Labor Party Chairman Shimon Peres's supporters gathered yesterday to discuss ways of postponing the party leadership election, scheduled for next March, thus keeping Peres at the helm until a year before the 2000 Knesset elections.

The message of the meeting, which was held at MK Rafi Elul's Mazkeret Batya home, was "Peres, don't go." It was attended by MKs Yossi Beilin, Dalia Itzik, Yona Yahav and Elul, as well as several mayors and local labor council secretaries.

Beilin, who spearheaded the call for Peres to stay until 1999, urged other candidates for the party leadership to step down and enable Peres to be elected party leader at the party convention next March.

Beilin said that "it would be a very

MICHAL YUDELMAN

grave mistake to elect the candidate for party chairman and prime minister in 2000 today. We must wait until a short time before the elections, to know who the most popular candidate is."

Everyone at the gathering agreed that Peres is the most popular leader Labor could find and enjoys more public credibility than any other candidate.

Since Peres has already announced that he would not be running in the next elections, it is not clear whether his supporters are planning to persuade him to reverse his decision.

Party sources said that postponing the leadership showdown is to the advantage of MK Haim Ramon,

who has not yet announced if he intends to contend for the leadership, and MK Efraim Sneh. They need more time to get organized and prepare for the showdown.

MK Ehud Barak, who is determined to run for party leadership, strongly opposes any delay in the election, as does MK Uzi Baram, although he has also not made his mind up yet whether to run.

Barak and his supporters intend to fight any attempt to put off the showdown, a move they say is intended to keep Peres as party chairman as long as possible, in the hope of a national unity government. Meanwhile the party will be paralyzed, Barak's support will crumble, and Labor's chances to defeat the Likud in the next elections will dwindle.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Cloud
Amsterdam	07	15	rain
Berlin	08	13	rain
London	08	14	rain
Paris	09	16	rain
Rome	10	18	rain
Madrid	10	19	rain
Stockholm	05	12	rain
Toronto	03	10	rain
Washington	04	11	rain
Los Angeles	12	22	cloudy
San Francisco	10	18	cloudy
Hong Kong	19	26	cloudy
Beijing	08	15	cloudy
Delhi	18	28	cloudy
Mumbai	24	32	cloudy
London	08	14	cloudy
Los Angeles	12	22	cloudy
New York	07	15	cloudy
Paris	09	16	cloudy
Rome	10	18	cloudy
Tokyo	10	18	cloudy
Yokohama	10	18	cloudy
Zurich	08	14	cloudy

Winning cards

IN yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the jack of spades, the queen of hearts, the ace of diamonds and the queen of clubs.

Peres: When time is right I will move to save peace process

LABOR leader Shimon Peres has accused Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu of imposing a "deadly game" on the Israelis and the Palestinians, and said he is waiting for the right conditions before reappearing on the Israeli political scene as an alternative to Netanyahu.

In an interview to be published today by the French weekly L'Express, Peres says he believes that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat prefers peace at all costs.

"I'm convinced, as much as one can be, that he [Arafat] didn't wish and/or order the violent outbursts of the Palestinian police. But, unquestionably, last week he decided to change his tactic," Peres said.

According to Peres, since the May

ELDAD BECK

elections Netanyahu hasn't ceased to humiliate and insult Arafat, thus weakening his position.

"Therefore, Arafat didn't have any other alternative, but to find a breach in order to break the rules of the deadly game imposed by the prime minister," Peres explained, adding that the fact that Palestinian policemen shot their Israeli counterparts represents a catastrophe for Arafat and the peace camp.

"Confidence is broken and that is very bad. From now on, how can we negotiate without fearing the Palestinian police? This can only harden the positions in Israel. On the other hand, Arafat is now deprived

in his daily action in the territories of the flexibility the joint patrols gave him. It's very bad for him," Peres said in the interview.

The former prime minister said he keeps in touch with Arafat, but takes care not to play the role of mediator.

"I don't wish to complicate the situation further," he said. "I shouldn't contribute to giving Netanyahu and his camp the impression that there is an alliance between Arafat and me."

But Peres admitted that through his contacts with Arafat he tries to give the Palestinian leader "small details and those keys" that will enable Arafat to negotiate directly with Netanyahu.

However, Peres believes that the time is not yet appropriate for him to play a real role to save the peace process.

Zvilli calls right-wing ad 'incitement to murder'

MICHAL YUDELMAN

LABOR Party Secretary-General Nissim Zvilli yesterday lodged a complaint with the head of the General Security Service about newspaper ads against party chairman Shimon Peres, which he called "incitement to murder."

The full-page ads accuse Peres of being responsible for the killing of soldiers because the Palestinians were given guns. The ads were signed by eight right-wing organizations.

Zvilli warned of the danger inherent in "such lunatic ads, which might lead to an assassination attempt on Peres."

"When I opened the papers in the morning, I couldn't believe my eyes. I couldn't believe the people of Israel could have such a short memory. A prime minister has been murdered following the incitement of extremists. We can't remain complacent and silent a second time," he said.

Zvilli noted that although the ads don't accuse Peres directly, "they call him a traitor and say his policy caused the death of soldiers, and the world is silent. The right-wing leaders, those who call themselves enlightened, are silent," he said.

US probing Swiss role in holding Holocaust assets

WASHINGTON - US officials are conducting a detailed investigation of documents related to Swiss banks' dealings with the Holocaust and have made no decision on whether to seek a new agreement with Switzerland on the matter, a Swiss government spokesman said.

Elizabeth Pryor, spokeswoman for the State Department's European bureau, said Tuesday that the investigation is being conducted in cooperation with researchers from Washington's Holocaust Museum.

"The amount of material is fairly large," Pryor said. "Until we understand exactly what happened in 1946, we cannot determine whether there should be any action taken or what it should be."

She said the State Department has not rejected Sen. Alfonse D'Amato's call for a renegotiation of a 1946 treaty with Switzerland on the handling of assets the Nazi's took from Holocaust victims. A decision on that would not be made until an examination of relevant documents kept in the US, Pryor said.

D'Amato, chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, meanwhile, asked the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and the Tripartite Commission for information about gold looted by the Nazis during World War Two.

He asked the Brussels-based Tripartite Commission for the Restitution of Monetary Gold how much gold had sent to the New York Fed, the Bank of England, and other central banks since it was created in 1946 to resolve the issue of assets stolen by the Nazis.

He also asked the New York Fed and the commission if it is possible to determine the origin of any gold they had obtained.

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